

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

<b>In the Matter of the Revocation</b>	)	
	)	
<b>or Suspension of the Educator</b>	)	<b>ORDER OF</b>
	)	
<b>Certificate of Sally Fields Miller</b>	)	<b>SUSPENSION</b>
	)	
<b>Certificate # 097590</b>	)	

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 12, 2003. On October 1, 2003, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of hearing of the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina Educator Certificate (certificate) to Ms. Sally Fields Miller by certified mail, restricted delivery, and return receipt requested. Ms. Fields received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing her signature. Ms. Miller did not request a hearing and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Miller's certificate for one year from November 12, 2003, through November 11, 2004.

Ms. Miller has over 29 years of teaching experience in Orangeburg School District Three (District). The Office of Assessment of the Department requested an investigation by SLED of Ms. Miller's administration of the PACT ALT after the assessment staff reviewed Ms. Miller's PACT ALT portfolios. During the 2001-2002 school year, Ms. Miller prepared an alternative assessment for four students with severe cognitive disabilities. Ms. Miller developed one original portfolio and then photocopied this portfolio for two other students. Data for the fourth student did not appear to have been copied. The data recorded for the three students were identical with only the names changed. Ms. Miller did admit to making copies of the sheets in order to save time but stated that she thought she had copied only the testing categories and not the actual test results. She waited until the last weekend to finish the portfolios and became careless in her efforts. Ms. Miller stated that she did collect the required data but forgot to enter the different scores for each child.

Solicitor Walter Bailey declined prosecution of this matter on February 7, 2003, and indicated that the District and the Department could best handle this matter. Ms. Miller retired from the District, effective December 2002, for health reasons.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." Just cause includes: "unprofessional conduct," S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regulation 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that the preponderance of the evidence presented by the Department, which is undisputed by Ms. Miller, supports its decision to suspend Ms. Miller's certificate. Accordingly, the Board hereby suspends Ms. Miller's certificate # 097590 from November 12, 2003 through November 11, 2004. If Ms. Miller wishes to have her certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she may make a written request to the Office of Teacher Certification of the Department

South Carolina State Board of Education

/S/ Greg Killian

Greg Killian  
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
November 12, 2003